

released to the eligible State Governments under the programmes, namely, Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India, essentially for income generation programmes and creation of infrastructural facilities respectively for the tribals in the States. The State Governments are free to frame project proposals for providing land to the tribals from the funds released by the Ministry, for income generating activities or creation of infrastructure, as per the requirement of the States in accordance with the guidelines prescribed for the programmes. Some proposals have been received from the States of Kerala and Karnataka.

Under the scheme of Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), any socio-economic developmental activity for PTGs can be undertaken including purchase of land. During 2006-07, proposals from the States of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh for grants for purchase of land have been considered for 50 PTG families (@ one acre per family) and 178 PTG families (@ two acre per family) respectively.

Non-implementation of PESA Act, 1996

1319. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware regarding non-implementation of PESA Act, 1996 in the State of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government agree that the non-implementation had resulted into great loss of the State and Tribal population of Jharkhand; and

(d) the actions are proposed to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) The Provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is applicable to Scheduled Areas of nine States including Jharkhand. The State has enacted requisite compliance Legislation by amending the State Panchayati Raj Act. Elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions are pending as the matter relating to reservation of posts is *sub-judice*.

The Union of India has since filed an SLP in the Supreme Court of India (CC No. 12459/2005) seeking to quash the judgment of the Hon'ble

High Court of Jharkhand. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Jharkhand, Secretary, Rural Development, Government of Jharkhand and the Election Commission, Government of Jharkhand are proforma Respondents in the matter. The Minister of Panchayati Raj has also written to the Chief Minister, Jharkhand for holding elections in the State at the earliest as per the Constitutional provisions of PESA. The Union of India has also requested Additional Solicitor General to make a special mention in the Supreme Court of India for an early hearing of the case. An interim Application has also been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court for an early hearing. Panchayats elections will be held in the State on the outcome of the SLP and Panchayati Raj Institutions will be placed in the State.

Child sex tourism

1320. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is fast emerging as a hub for child sex tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where child sex tourism is rampant; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) As per studies conducted by National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women, Child Sex Tourism is prevalent in India, under the cover of Pilgrim Tourism, Heritage Tourism and Coastal Tourism and is mostly found in the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa.

(d) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now likely to be further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programmes for prevention of child trafficking.